



Public Safety

Existing Public Safety Conditions

Police Protection Services in the Greater Duwamish

The Greater Duwamish Valley is served by the West and South Police Precincts, which both have large geographical areas. Efforts to form a West Seattle Precinct are welcomed among south end neighborhoods. Institution of this new precinct would vastly improve response times and overall police protection service for the South Precinct.

Crime Statistics in the Duwamish Area

- Traffic violations and traffic control stand out as the most frequent police incidents in the Greater Duwamish;
- 700 incidents of car prowling or auto accessory theft were reported in 1997. There is a high concentration of incidents along the 1st Avenue S corridor in the SODO Business District, the residential and old industrial core of Georgetown (southeast of Corson Avenue S), and on side streets north and south of Cloverdale Street in South Park;
- 560 incidents of theft were reported to the Police Department in 1997. Large concentrations occur along major arterials and in the residential pockets of South Park and Georgetown;
- 279 incidents fall under the category of vehicle theft; 127 as the recovery of stolen vehicles; and 63 as the theft and recovery of vehicles in the Greater Duwamish;
- The 372 incidents of nonresidential burglary are relatively small given the geographic size of the Greater Duwamish and in comparison to other business districts throughout Seattle;
- A total of 338 shoplifting incidents were reported in 1997;
- 330 incidents of property damage were reported in 1997. Of these, 23 were categorized as gang-related property damage. High concentrations of incidents exist in South Park along the Cloverdale Street corridor and its adjacent side streets;
- 313 assaults were reported to the police department in 1997;
- Prostitution incidents increased from the previous year to 32 incidents in 1997 and have dramatically increased over the past decade;
- 69 drug activity incidents were reported in 1997; and
- Of the 68 robberies reported in 1997, 38 were categorized as armed robberies, while the other 30 were considered strong arm robberies.



Historic Crime Statistics Trends — Part 1 Offenses

(Note: Part 1 Offenses are crimes under the jurisdiction of the FBI.)

- While the total number of crimes has decreased since 1994, incident reports have climbed gradually for the past three years;
- The SODO Business District experienced a sharp increase in the total number of Part 1 Offenses committed in 1997;

- There were substantial increases in aggravated assaults, burglaries, and auto theft. Robberies, thefts, and arsons went down during the past year;
- South Park has experienced an overall increase in crime between 1994 and 1997, rising from 338 Part 1 Offenses to 396; and
- Crime has steadily decreased in Georgetown during the period between 1994 through 1997.

Local Organizations Working on Public Safety.

Crime prevention and public safety stand out as joint priorities of the Greater Duwamish's business and residential populations. In addition to the neighborhood planning groups in the Duwamish M and I Center, South Park, and Georgetown, several community-based organizations regularly work with the Seattle Police Department to address public safety concerns.

Fire Protection in the Greater Duwamish.

The Greater Duwamish Valley is served by four fire stations. As illustrated in Table 7-1, they are spread throughout the Greater Duwamish. Station 14 is within the SODO Business Association. Station 26 is in South Park. Station 27 is in Georgetown. Station 36 is situated on Harbor Island.

Station #	Location	Apparatus
14	3224th Ave S	Ladder Co., Aid Van Unit
26	800 So. Cloverdale	Engine Company
27	1000 So. Myrtle	Engine Company
36	3600 23rd Ave SW	Rescue Unit, Engine Co.

Table 7-1: Greater Duwamish Fire Stations

Table 7-2 depicts the emergency response runs for each of the various companies and aid units serving the Greater Duwamish, as well as their average response times from dispatch to arrival on scenes.

Station #	Apparatus	Advanced Life support	Average Response Time (min)	Basic Life Support	Average Response Time (min)	Fire & Rescue	Average Response Time (min)	Total Responses
14	Ladder Co.	57	4.03	101	4.03	601	2.75	759
26	Engine Co.	195	4.66	285	4.92	193	5.41	673
27	Engine Co.	237	4.88	511	4.46	439	5.22	1,187
36	Rescue Unit	0	---	0	---	18	---	18
36	Engine Co.	163	4.61	316	4.71	438	5.34	917

Table 7-2: Greater Duwamish Fire Emergency Response Runs and Average Response Times
All information is current as of May 1, 1998.

Vision Statement

The Greater Duwamish will be a safe and comfortable place to work and live. As a shared interest among the local business associations and residential community councils, the Greater Duwamish will foster public safety and personal security as rallying points for the area's manufacturing and industrial businesses, and the residents of South Park and Georgetown. Community business and residential block watches will be in place and the Greater Duwamish will receive the necessary public investments to make streets safe, clean, and hospitable for all people. Community policing and fire protection services will be strong and visible, as more resources come to the Duwamish with the advent of a West Seattle Precinct.

Goal & Policies

The following section provides a listing of the proposed goals, policies, and strategies that will lead to a safe and secure Greater Duwamish. The recommendations fall into two priorities: (1) community-based actions which can be undertaken by local crime prevention organizations, and (2) 'public safety capital improvements that will be necessary from the City of Seattle.

Goal PS-1: Create an Educational Outreach Program.

Create a unified and cohesive network that links together the crime prevention resources and capabilities of the Greater Duwamish business and residential communities.

- Pol. PS 1.1 Promote public safety as an important element that will ensure economic vitality in the Greater Duwamish's business communities and outstanding quality of life in its residential neighborhoods.
- Pol. PS 1.2 Establish partnerships among local organizations to strengthen awareness and action relating to public safety and community policing.
- Pol. PS 1.3 Enhance educational public safety programs and continue to develop working relationships with the Seattle Police Department's Community Crime Prevention Team.

Goal PS-2: Create Safe Communities with Public Safety Capital Improvements.

Improve public investments in community policing, wayfinding, street lighting, and traffic control to strengthen with safe streets, vital and economically strong business districts, and livable residential enclaves in the Duwamish M and I Center.

- Pol. PS 2.1 Promote community policing as a strategy for creating safer streets and increasing personal safety throughout the Greater Duwamish.
- Pol.** PS 2.2 Establish identity and wayfinding features to increase pride of place and promoting a stronger sense of community in business districts and residential neighborhoods.

- Pol. PS 2.3** Resolve traffic conflicts and support recommendations for local traffic improvements as proposed by the Greater Duwamish Manufacturing and Industrial Center Plan.
- Pol. PS 2.4** Address local public safety **hotspots** in the SODO Business District, South Park, and Georgetown, as identified in the existing conditions segment of this Public Safety Plan, as well as in future findings from the proposed Public Safety forums.

Recommended Actions/Strategies

Create an Educational Outreach Program

Act. PS-1 Educational Outreach Program. Seek funding for an Education Outreach Campaign to Greater Duwamish businesses in the SODO Business District, South Park, and Georgetown, which would include the following actions:

- A) Conduct a mass mailing in 1999 to all Greater Duwamish businesses;
- B) Coordinate with each local business association;
- C) Provide public safety information briefings to business associations;
- D) Develop a newsletter to update businesses on public safety happenings;
- E) Publish newsletter half yearly, then move up to quarterly in 2000; and
- F) Develop a Greater Duwamish Public Safety web site.

Rationale: An education and outreach campaign is needed to apprise the community about issues, and to garner community support and involvement on an ongoing basis.

Act. PS-2 Establish a **Greater** Duwamish Public Safety **Advisory** Committee. Seek funding for staffing and professional services assistance. The committee should include:

- A) Seattle Police and Fire Chiefs as Honorary Chairs,
- B) Representative from the Seattle Mayor's Office,
- C) Chairs from the SODO, South Park, and Georgetown Business Associations,
- D) Representatives from South Park and Georgetown Crime Prevention councils,
- E) Members from Seattle Police Department Community Crime Prevention,
- F) Representative from King County Metro Transit,
- G) Representative from the Tukwila Police Department,
- H) Representative from the Port of Seattle Police,
- I) Representative from the United States Coast Guard,
- J) Representative from Ring County International Airport Security,

- K) Captains from the Greater Duwamish Fire Stations,
 - L) Member from the Seattle Neighborhood Group, and
 - M) At-large members from the local business associations.
- Rationale: A public safety advisory committee is needed to ensure that public safety efforts will be provided with continuity on an ongoing basis.

Act. PS-3 Public Safety Forums. Host a series of Public Safety forums. Seek funding for four initial events, one in each of the business areas and one that focuses on area-wide issues. Steps to begin the forums would include:

- A) Establish a calendar of events;
- B) Develop mailer pieces;
- C) Secure meeting rooms in each local business district;
- D) Work with Seattle Police to establish agenda and forum content; and
- E) Develop and mail a follow-up newsletter on forum findings.

Rationale: Public safety forums, when combined with actions PS-1 and PS-2, will ensure ongoing community awareness and involvement in community policy and public safety support.

Create Safe Communities with Public Safety Capital Improvements

Act. PS-4 Create a West Seattle Precinct.

Rationale: Because no precinct exists in this part of the City, the South Seattle precinct service area is spread widely. A West Seattle precinct would improve patrols and response times throughout the Greater Duwamish by limiting the coverage area of the South Seattle precinct

Act. PS-5 Establish Community Policing Storefronts. Work with Seattle Police to establish local community policing storefronts in each of the area business districts, including:

- A) A SODO storefront perhaps co-located with Seattle School District;
- B) A South Park storefront along 14th Avenue S to target **hotspots** on this street and nearby Cloverdale Street; and
- C) A Georgetown storefront either in the old commercial core (perhaps as part of Old City Hall renovation) or located in or around Seattle Design Center.

Rationale: Community policing storefronts increase public access to police officers and help in the exchange of safety information between the public and the police.

Act. PS-6 Establish a **Wayfinding** System. Establish a “wayfinding” system throughout the Greater Duwamish Valley. Elements which should be included:

- A) A network of large, visible directional signs,

- B) Traffic and highway signage,
- C) Gateway and welcoming signs/banners to denote various districts,
- D) Kiosks and bulletin boards to assist patrons, and
- E) Information Centers, perhaps co-located with community policing storefronts.

Rationale: This endeavor is currently underway for Downtown Seattle, and could be implemented to better connect people to the various business districts, industrial centers, community facilities, and residential neighborhoods in the Greater Duwamish.

Act. PS-7 **Traffic** Control and Directional Mechanisms. Support traffic control and traffic directing mechanisms promoted in the 'Greater Duwamish Valley, as suggested in the Duwamish Manufacturing & Industrial Center Plan.

Rationale: Increased traffic control and directional mechanisms would help improve traffic safety in the M and I Center.

Act. PS-8 Improve Street Lighting. Work with Seattle City Light to identify areas within the business districts that require improved street lighting. Areas which should be closely examined for new capital improvements are:

- A) South Park: 14th Avenue S, Cloverdale Street, and along the arterial route established through the northern segment of the South Park Industrial area,
- B) South Park: Work with homeowners on alley lighting and installing new lighting on troubled side streets intersecting with Cloverdale;
- C) Georgetown: Provide for overall lighting improvement in and around the old commercial core;
- D) Georgetown: Work with homeowners on alley lighting, and install improved lighting along East Marginal Way S on "motel row;"
- E) SODO Business District: Provide for new and improved illumination of street lighting on all major east-west streets north of Spokane Street. Should a light rail station be developed at the Metro Busway and Lander Street, provide enhanced pedestrian lighting from Airport Way S to 1st Avenue S; and
- F) In all areas, work with King County Metro to improve lighting around bus stops, particular routes along Airport Way S, 4th Avenue S, the old commercial core in Georgetown, and 14th Avenue S and Cloverdale Street in South Park.

Rationale: Many streets in the M and I Center lack adequate lighting, which creates the impression of being deserted at night. Improved lighting will assist with community policing and increased visibility in the M and I Center.

- Act. PS-9 Fiie Department Resources. Retain all of the available Fire Department resources at each of the station locations. Ensure that Station 14 retains both its ladder company and aid unit.
- Rationale: The removal of the aid unit would cause great risk of increased response time for aid type emergencies in the Greater Duwamish Manufacturing and Industrial Center.

Summary Matrix *of* Proposed Public Safety Strategies

The following matrix summarizes the proposed public safety strategies described in the previous section. The matrix provides a document reference, brief description of the proposed improvement, a timeframe, an estimated cost, and an indication of which City Departments should respond for future implementation.

Table 7-3: Recommended Public Safety Actions

Ref.	Description	Tim&me	Cost Estimate	Implementor
Act. PS-1	Funding for Education Outreach Campaign, including mailers, newsletters, briefings, web site.	In 1999	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Groups Dept. of Neighborhoods
Act. PS-2	Establish Greater Duwamish Public Safety Advisory Committee. Seek funding for staffing and professional services.	Begin in early 1999	\$25,000 (staffing half-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Groups Dept. of Neighborhoods Seattle Police Seattle Fire Department
Act. PS-3	Host Public Safety Forums in each of the three local districts and host one area-wide. Work will include mailers, calendar prep, agenda development, and creation of a follow-up mailer on the forum findings.	1 st or 2 nd Quarter of 1999	Partially funded today. \$12,000 for mailers. \$10,000 for organizing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Groups Dept. of Neighborhoods Seattle Police Seattle Fire Department
Act. PS-4	Support development of a West Seattle Police Precinct.	ASAP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor's Office City Council Seattle Police
Act. PS-5	Establish local community policing storefronts in each of the area business districts. It is assumed community must find and help secure location funding.	1 to 3 years	Costs vary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seattle Police Business Associations Residential Councils
Act. PS-6	Establish wayfinding systems throughout the Greater Duwamish Valley. Model after Downtown Seattle efforts.	1 to 5 years	\$25,000-30,000 for signage \$30,000/year for info centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Groups Dept. of Neighborhoods SeaTran Washington DOT
Act. PS-7	Support traffic control and traffic directing mechanisms.	2 to 10 years	--	Please refer to the Greater Duwamish Transportation Element.
Act PS-8	Provide a range of street, alley, and bus stop lighting investments through the Greater Duwamish.	1 to 5 years	Costs vary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seattle City Light King County Metro
Act PS-9	Retain Aid Unit for Station 14.	ASAP	--	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seattle City Council Seattle Fire Department